

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

1. (Currently amended) A portable monitoring device for
5 characterized in that it is comprises:
- monitoring means for monitoring the presence of at least one
monitored item, said monitoring means comprising:
- polling means (11) for transmitting a poll signal to at
10 least one carrier device arranged on a monitored item, said
poll signal having predetermined characteristics identifying
the monitoring device (3) and the carrier,
- receiving means (13) for receiving a response signal from
the monitored item,
- position means (15) for identifying the monitored item on
15 the basis of characteristics of the response signal, and -
- output means (12) for controlling the function of a
communication device on which the monitoring device is
arranged.
- 20 2. (Original) A monitoring device according to claim 1,
wherein the position means is arranged to determine the
position of the monitored item on the basis of characteristics
of the response signal.
- 25 3. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim
1 ~~or 2, further comprising~~ wherein the monitoring device
further has action means (17) for taking action if the
position means determines that the distance between the
monitoring device and the monitored item is greater than a
30 predefined threshold distance.
4. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim
1, ~~2 or 3, further comprising~~ wherein the monitoring device
further has action means (17) for taking action if no response

signal is received within a predetermined period of time.

5 5. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to ~~any one of the claims 3 or 4~~, wherein said action means (17) is arranged to take action by transmitting a deactivating signal to deactivate the monitored item.

10 6. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 3 ~~any one of the claims 3-4~~, wherein said action means (17) is arranged to take action by issuing an alarm.

15 7. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 7 ~~any one of the claims 3-6~~, wherein the action means (17) is arranged to activate a camera associated with the transmitting unit,

20 8. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 3 ~~any one of the claims 3-8~~, wherein the action means (17) is arranged to display the determined position of the monitored item on a display screen.

25 9. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the polling means (11) is a short-range transmitter.

10. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 1 ~~any one of the claims 1-8~~, wherein the polling means (11) is arranged to transmit the poll signal on a radio frequency.

30 11. (Currently amended) A monitoring device according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the polling means (11) is arranged to transmit the poll signal by means of a telecommunications network.

35 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A carrier device ~~(7)~~ arranged to be placed on a monitored item ~~(5)~~ ~~and~~ comprising:

- 5 - receiving means (21) for receiving a poll signal from a monitoring device, said poll signal having predetermined characteristics identifying the monitoring device and the carrier,
- 10 - response means (23) for transmitting a response signal to the monitoring device, said response signal enabling the monitoring device to identify the carrier device, and
- deactivation means (25) for deactivating a function of the monitored item in response to a deactivating signal received from the monitoring device.

15 14. (Currently amended) A The carrier device ~~(7)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the response means (23) is arranged to transmit the response signal in response to the poll signal.

20 15. (Currently amended) A The carrier device ~~(7)~~ according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein the response means is arranged to transmit a response signal enabling the monitoring device to determine the position of the carrier device.

25 16. (Canceled)

30 17. (Currently amended) A carrier device according to claim 13 ~~any one of the claims 13-16~~, further comprising deactivation means (25) for deactivating a function of the monitored item if no poll signal has been received from the monitoring device in a predefined period of time.

35 18. (Currently amended) A carrier device according to claim 13 ~~any one of the claims 13-16~~, wherein said response means is a short-range transmitter.

19. (Currently amended) A carrier device according to claim 13
~~any one of the claim 13-16~~, wherein said response means is a
radio frequency transmitter.

5 20. (Currently amended) A carrier device according to claim 13
~~any one of the claims 13-16~~, wherein said response means is
arranged to transmit the response signal through a
telecommunications network.

10 21. (Currently amended) A carrier device according to claim 13
~~any one of the claims 13-20~~, further comprising output means
for controlling the function of an item on which the carrier
device is arranged.

15 22. (Currently amended) A method for monitoring the presence
of a monitored item comprising: ~~the steps of~~
- transmitting a poll signal from a monitoring device to a
carrier device arranged on the monitored item, said poll
signal having predetermined characteristics identifying the
20 monitoring device and the carrier device,
- transmitting a response signal from the carrier device to
the monitoring device, said response signal enabling the
monitoring device to determine the position of the carrier
device,
25 - taking action if it is determined that the distance between
the monitoring device and the carrier device is greater than a
predetermined threshold distance,
- deactivation by the carrier device of a function of the
monitored item,
30 - transmitting a deactivating signal from the monitoring
device to the carrier device, and
- taking action if no response signal is received in the
monitoring device within a predefined period of time.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the response signal is transmitted in response to the poll signal

24. (Canceled)

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25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 24 wherein the step of taking action includes issuing an alarm.

26. (Canceled)

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27. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the method further comprises any one of the claims 22-26,
~~comprising~~ the step of taking action if no poll signal is received in the carrier device within a predetermined period of time.

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28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 22 wherein the method further comprises any one of the claims 22-28,
~~further comprising~~ the step of displaying the position of the carrier device on a display unit associated with the monitoring device.

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30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

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